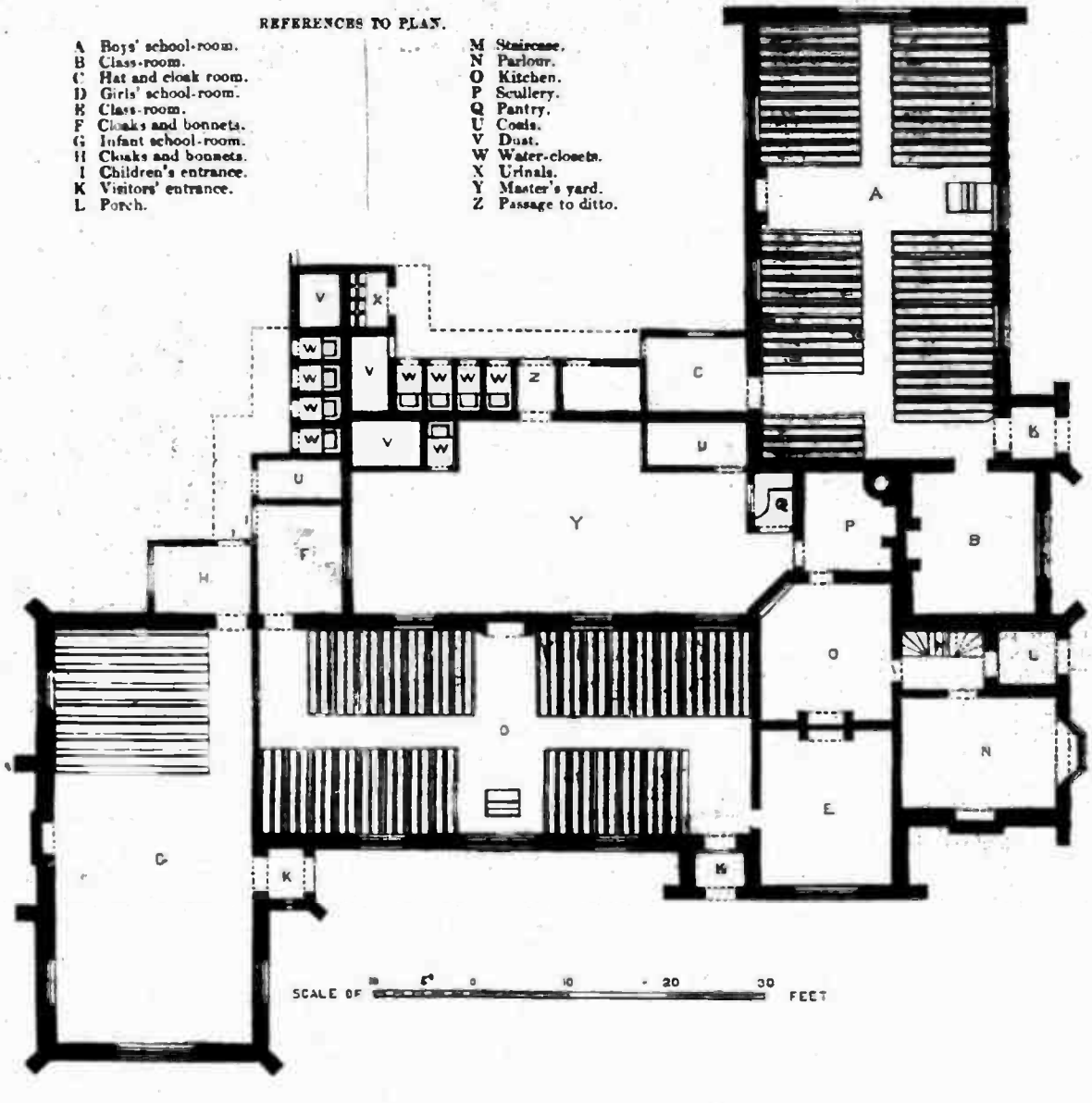
PLAN OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS, HYTHE.

REFERENCES TO PLAN.

A Boys' school-room.
B Class-room.
C Hat and cloak room.
D Girls' school-room.
E Class-room.
F Cloaks and bonnets.
G Infant school-room.
H Cloaks and bonnets.
I Children's entrance.
K Visitors' entrance.
L Porch.
M Staircase.
N Parlour.
O Kitchen.
P Scullery.
Q Pantry.
U Coals.
V Dust.
W Water-closets.
X Urinals.
Y Master's yard.
Z Passage to ditto.



NEW NATIONAL SCHOOLS, HYTHE.

We this week give a View and Ground Plan of the New National Schools, Hythe, which were opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, on the 2nd December last. They are a creditable addition to the groups of buildings which have been erected of late years to promote the cause of national education. The poorer class of the community have thus the opportunity of developing any innate aptitude which would else be withered or perverted through want of proper training, and the more favoured class can, in the erection of similar buildings, show at once their benevolence and their desire to remove the slur upon the ignorance of the "bold peasantry," and the toiling units who form the bulk of the population of our towns. And surely benevolence is linked to the highest wisdom, when children are furnished with weapons that never tarnish, to fight the "battle of life," instead of growing in ignorance, to live, perchance, upon the charity of the generous, to swell the list of criminals, and to leave a disgraceful mark—"his mark"—behind them.

As associated with the church, the group of buildings now under notice have somewhat of an ecclesiastical character. They are built of the Kentish rag, the stone found in the vicinity, which was presented to the committee by Mr. W. Deedes, M.P. The dressings are all of Caen stone, together with the angles, internal and external. They consist of three schools, to contain 160 boys, 160 girls, and 160 infants. To these are attached distinct class rooms and rooms for hats, cloaks, bonnets, &c.; and a master's residence, situated at the angle dividing the male from the female and infant scholars. The residence commands, in the rear, a view of all the play-grounds, and is distinguished, as a domestic residence, from the educational buildings, by the introduction of barge-boards to the gables. The gable to the left is hipped, to give prominence to the principal one, adjoining the angle of the building. As may be seen from the plan, each school is furnished with a separate porch to the visitors' entrances. In the gables of these porches are shields, with carved ribands suitably inscribed, and over them respectively monograms of the mayor, Mr. Jas. Watts; the Rev. F. T. Scott, the rector; and the date of their erection, 1851. The chimneys are built of a combination of red and white brick, and three or four courses of red brick are laid on the tops of the walls to receive the feet of the rafters. The small gablettes shown in the roofs are for the egress of the vitiated air from the schools, and provision has been made for the ingress and regulation of fresh air to all parts of the building.

The minor arrangements are shown on the plan.

The contract was taken by Messrs. Horton for 1,270*l.*: the architect was Mr. J. Messenger.

As may be perceived the roofs are covered with alternate layers of plain and ornamental tiling, crested by ornamental ridge tiles. The Arms of Hythe are introduced in a square panel over the window in the principal gable. Inside, the roofs are open to the collar, the rafters being chamfered, and, together with the boarding, stained and varnished.*

The funds for the erection of these schools sprang from the generosity of the neighbourhood, stimulated by the exertions of the Rev. F. T. Scott, the rector, aided by grant from one or two societies.

Our view is copied from a drawing by Mr. Wm. Boutcher.

* The schools are situated in a healthy position facing the Green; commodious play-grounds, with gymnasium, &c. for the boys, are likewise provided in the rear of the buildings.

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